

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Rural Electrification Administration

March 1, 1950

## + REA AT A GLANCE: X

More than 80 percent of the Nation's farms now have electric power, as compared with 10.9 percent in 1935.

Loans made by the Rural Electrification Administration to locally-owned power systems account for a large part of this increase. These systems are now connecting rural consumers at the rate of 1 every 15 seconds. Last year they were responsible for bringing service to nearly 8 out of every 10 farms connected by all suppliers during the year.

At the same time as the rural power lines have stretched out, the farm use of electric power has sky-rocketed. This is indicated by the fact that the demand for power has increased much more rapidly than connections of new consumers. The amount of power billed by REA-financed systems has more than doubled every four years since the program began. Last year they distributed about 5½ billion kilowatt-hours.

REA loans are made to finance the full cost of constructing power lines and other electric facilities. Loans now total more than two billion dollars. Of REA's 1,066 borrowers, 976 are cooperatives. Under the law cooperatives, public bodies and other non-profit organizations have preference for loans.

REA is an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture. It does not construct, own or operate any power facilities. The loans bear 2 percent interest and are repaid over a maximum of 35 years.

Up to the end of 1949, borrowers had paid almost \$225,000,000 in principal and interest on their REA loans. Well over half of all operating borrowers had made payments in advance of schedule. Only four tenths of one percent of payments due are in arrears more than 30 days.

Facilities financed by REA include about 950,000 miles of line already in operation serving more than 3,000,000 farms and other rural consumers in about 2,500 counties of 46 states, Alaska and the Virgin Islands.

Of all the loans thus far made, about 85 percent have been for electric distribution facilities, to borrowers who buy power at wholesale rather than generate it themselves.

REA has made 95 percent of its loans to cooperatives organized under state laws by rural people seeking electric service. These groups are local independent private business enterprises, controlled by their consumer-members through boards of directors elected annually by and from the membership.

Through an act of Congress last October, REA was authorized to make loans for the extension and improvement of rural telephone service. The first such loan was made on February 24, 1950. The borrower is Florala Telephone Company, Florala, Alabama, and the loan totaled \$243,000.



# RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

Percentage  
Electrified

(As of December 31, 1949)

	Farms		Loans Approved (in thousands)	Miles Energized	Consumers Connected	Principal and Interest Paid	KWH per Farm	
	1935	1949					1941	1948
United States	10.9	78.2	\$1,999,280	939,473	3,031,098	\$223,114,846*	61	131
Alabama	4.0	77.9	54,068	26,112	118,916	5,208,820	41	95
Arizona	29.6	83.2	14,691	1,851	7,797	634,858	95	134
Arkansas	1.2	69.0	49,706	27,876	101,764	4,479,671	43	64
California	53.9	94.9	5,849	2,135	10,971	1,214,108	110	231
Colorado	11.2	90.2	33,934	14,386	40,446	3,418,165	60	149
Connecticut	31.5	99.5	---	---	---	---	---	---
Delaware	17.3	95.3	3,032	1,683	6,232	615,189	72	172
Florida	7.8	76.5	26,682	12,465	41,277	2,039,220	54	87
Georgia	2.8	85.6	78,392	48,325	187,556	10,368,751	41	99
Idaho	29.8	97.6	8,922	4,854	11,560	1,766,344	59	211
Illinois	12.3	92.7	64,403	36,548	110,307	10,588,083	69	156
Indiana	11.7	98.2	46,122	32,995	127,990	13,520,001	65	167
Iowa	14.4	86.2	106,596	47,948	120,206	13,222,252	79	213
Kansas	7.6	61.3	68,766	29,701	60,722	3,945,022	60	135
Kentucky	3.0	64.6	78,727	31,817	137,182	7,457,515	52	101
Louisiana	1.7	71.4	31,997	16,444	70,268	7,513,368	46	59
Maine	33.3	78.0	1,504	756	3,325	161,943	49	72
Maryland	15.3	93.8	10,034	4,127	19,344	1,061,245	65	140
Massachusetts	41.3	96.0	---	---	---	---	---	---
Michigan	21.4	97.0	43,823	13,521	55,379	6,232,384	67	160
Minnesota	6.8	79.1	115,522	62,791	148,744	15,137,041	86	211
Mississippi	0.9	49.1	64,434	34,471	152,520	6,537,888	40	81
Missouri	6.4	61.1	139,577	50,016	162,882	9,439,672	54	100
Montana	5.5	62.2	28,001	13,940	25,363	2,141,115	76	211
Nebraska	7.1	54.5	78,359	29,606	61,621	6,210,575	68	182
Nevada	25.6	63.1	326	164	702	251,357	140	713
New Hampshire	53.7	94.7	5,561	1,680	5,089	145,826	59	149
New Jersey	51.6	97.9	946	479	2,461	259,831	136	255
New Mexico	3.3	52.4	25,803	6,782	22,192	825,265	66	96
New York	32.7	94.6	3,103	3,010	10,670	2,294,619	139**	194
N. Carolina	3.2	83.6	58,695	30,552	124,971	9,704,854	37	74
North Dakota	2.3	36.4	82,052	26,164	34,369	1,863,552	91	193
Ohio	18.8	99.4	43,610	26,331	106,294	10,535,494	71	182
Oklahoma	2.6	56.0	66,952	36,816	87,646	5,192,167	57	87
Oregon	27.5	99.3	21,367	6,000	20,721	1,991,927	74	268
Pennsylvania	23.6	93.5	24,463	14,124	54,231	5,006,208	70	160
Rhode Island	45.6	97.6	---	---	---	---	---	---
S. Carolina	2.3	78.6	41,158	21,678	87,418	4,226,766	44	86
South Dakota	3.5	38.7	46,496	20,787	35,298	1,120,858	65	175
Tennessee	3.6	65.8	69,564	31,184	209,925	9,178,871	121**	152
Texas	2.3	78.4	159,212	102,808	254,257	18,133,787	45	80
Utah	52.5	80.8	11,839	1,224	3,292	424,604	87	124
Vermont	29.4	83.3	3,268	1,684	5,229	409,205	68	181
Virginia	7.6	84.7	54,619	19,790	70,657	4,617,488	54	105
Washington	47.5	96.6	23,857	10,367	23,730	3,438,012	101	408
West Virginia	3.5	67.1	1,422	694	2,909	194,877	50	99
Wisconsin	19.6	91.6	81,208	26,053	72,764	8,592,528	84	194
Wyoming	3.0	63.5	15,666	6,466	11,771	1,393,327	78	182
Alaska			2,520	186	1,392	124,657		
Virgin Is.			432	82	738	75,536		

\*Includes \$200,000 adjustment of 1942 note.

\*\*1946 figure